(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request was received from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in October, 2006 for operation of Air India Express flights from Hyderabad to Gulf Countries and Bangkok. Air India Express is planning three flights a week from Hyderabad to Abu Dhabi by end of April, 2008. Currently, Air India Express has no plans for operations to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait from Hyderabad. However, Air India is operating non-stop flights from Hyderabad to Bangkok and Kuwait and through hub and spoke operations over Mumbai to Riyadh.

Accident at Delhi Airport

3727. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recently purchased (only six months back) Aircraft engine cover came off and fell on the runway in Delhi on 23 February, 2008 there by grounding 150 passengers for a day;

(b) if so, whether it was a manufacturing defect or poor maintenance by Air India;

(c) what are the findings of the investigations carried out to probe this unfortunate incident; and

(d) what steps have been taken to improve the maintenance of Air India aircrafts to avoid recurrence of such life-threatening eventualities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. M/s National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL)-A-321 aircraft VT-PPD while operating Charter flight from Delhi to Srinagar on 24.2.2008 was involved in an incident during take-off where in the bottom latches only of the nose cowl of right hand engine opened up. The aircraft returned and landed safely at Delhi.

(b) and (c) Investigation of the failed parts revealed that the failure of anti-rotation key of forward and aft keeper assembly probably changed the latch tension by repeated opening and closing of fan cowl, which has resulted in detachment of latch engagement in the eyebolt, leading to cowl opening. Based on *prima facie* evidence the privileges of the licences of both the departure engineer and the engineer who earlier carried out weekly inspection have been suspended.

(d) The aircraft utilised for scheduled services are maintained in an airworthy condition by carrying out sheduled maintenance as stipulated by the manufacturers and approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. NACIL has issued A321 Technical Circular No. 5 of 2008 for the information of all the engineers regarding proper opening/closing of engine fan cowl doors.

Traffic problem of IGI Airport

3728. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: